

Statement by Representative James A. Leach  
Chairman, Subcommittee on Asia and the Pacific  
Hearing on the "U.S.-India Global Partnership:  
The Impact on Nonproliferation"  
October 26, 2005

Thank you, Mr. Chairman, for calling the second in what I understand will be a series of hearings examining the proposed U.S.-India civil nuclear agreement.

At the outset, it should be underscored that support for closer U.S.-India relations is deep and bipartisan. Few trends in Asia are more consequential than America's increasingly robust relationship with India.

On the other hand, because the proposed civil nuclear initiative challenges key elements of over thirty years of U.S. nuclear nonproliferation policy, it is the obligation of this Committee to subject that agreement to thorough review.

At issue is the question of whether the approach under consideration, or a credible modification of that approach, will lead to an enhancement of the global nonproliferation regime. Congress will need to examine carefully where the balance falls on this issue, as well as whether there are other factors that must be taken into consideration.

In any event, Members will need to be assured that the proposed agreement does not substantially undermine the global nonproliferation regime before support is likely to materialize in Congress.

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